



Black and *Pink* Newsletter

OCTOBER 2010 ISSUE

BLACK AND PINK— NEWSLETTER, C/O COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON,
565 BOYLSTON ST, BOSTON, MA 02116

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Dear friends,



Audre Lorde, poet, Black feminist, mother, socialist, organizer, once wrote that, "when I dare to be powerful - to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid."

There is a lot out there to be afraid of. There is a lot behind the prison walls to be afraid of. The lives of queer and transgender people are often met with violence, especially those of us who are incarcerated. The world we live in can, at times, feel overpoweringly fearful. Yet we get to continue to make choices every moment of every day. We get to choose our actions, our responses, our ways of living each day. The strength of courage is not the absence of fear but the choice to move forward even when aware of that fear. As individuals you each get to "dare to be powerful" and as a collective, as a united voice of queer and transgender people impacted by the prison industrial complex, we have the responsibility to "dare to be powerful," our survival depends on it.

Over the past six weeks there have been eight queer youth suicides that received national attention. These youth ranged in ages from 13 to 19. As suicide is one of the leading causes of death for teenagers in the United States, four times higher for queer young people, I am sure there were more than these eight young people in the past six weeks. This is a devastating reality for young people's lives. Dan Savage, a queer columnist and author, began a YouTube campaign, "It Gets Better." This campaign encourages people to make short videos to place on the internet informing young people that queer life improves over time. There have been lots of great critiques of this campaign, suggesting that for many people it doesn't get better and that the campaign is short sighted in its relevance only to middle class white kids. That said, I wonder what many of you might offer to young queer kids. What do incarcerated queer and transgender people have to say to queer and transgender youth who are suffering through bullying every day? What advice do you have? What reflections can you add that these young people may not be getting from folks who have instant access to create a video on a computer? Your voices are essential to these young people's lives. It needs to not just get better in the future; we must work with young people to see that their lives are better now. We need to stand by these resilient young people as they come up with their own strategies for surviving and thriving in our homophobic/biphobic/transphobic/queer-hating culture. Your voices are essential to this work, so please share any thoughts you might have with us.

When young people feel that suicide is their only option what is that saying to us as a people? In my state, Massachusetts, prisoners also often have a similar feeling; our prisoner suicide rate is six times the national average. How do we nurture the resiliency necessary for people who are suffering to connect to that feeling of power? Too many people have turned around and blamed the victims, suggesting that those who commit suicide are taking the easy way out or simply are not strong enough to make it through what others have gone through. This blaming is the opposite of helpful; rather it harms loved ones left behind and others who have contemplated taking their own lives. How do you, living in a system that is essentially one giant bully, continue to survive? How is it that you continuously choose to be powerful? How might your experiences strengthen the lives of others?

I write this letter with a strong feeling of hope. I have a quote from John Murray, a Universalist minister from the late 18th Century, tattooed on my arm, "give them not hell but hope and courage!" People who feel suicide is their only option show us as a community that there is a need for much more hope, not only that things will get better but that each person is entitled to better life now. This is why we at Black and *Pink* struggle for the abolition of the prison industrial complex. All of this work is deeply interconnected. We will survive greatest when we understand our relationship to one another. To quote Audre Lorde again, "I do not believe in single issue politics because we do not live single issue lives." So let us all support one another in our survival knowing that we are all interconnected and that, "once there were no prisons, that day will come again!"

In love and struggle, Jason



Thus far we have received 20 responses to our survey about "developing leadership" for participants in Black and Pink. It has been a great joy to read your responses. Many, many of the responses are affirming of the work we are trying to do as "free world" folks to be supportive and in solidarity with y'all on the inside. There was also a lot of helpful feedback about things we could possibly change and how we could more appropriately and adequately meet your diverse needs. The following is a compilation of some of your thoughts. Please continue sending in reflections. We will try to have a firm plan for clear roads of accountability between us and you all by the end of the year. Many thanks for your continued engagement with us in this process!

Please share your thoughts and ideas about the newsletter:

- (Tommy Hull III) I think that your newsletters are just great. It's inspiring how people can open up their minds and hearts to one another. I am very grateful to receive your newsletter. Please continue to keep up the good work of helping others have stories to read.
- (David Eugene Davis) You alls newsletter is very, very, very awesome! I love everything about it, so please don't change it at all! With everyone coming to you all with stories are really awesome. But they're not just stories, it's peoples lives! Please don't change nothing!!!
- (Jasmine Jones) I think over all your newsletter is informative. However, being a transgender myself, currently incarcerated for a crime of passion. In other words I killed my cheating, abusive boyfriend. I received a 15 year sentence for this charge I think those issues need to be addressed more. I don't condone killing. But what are we to do if we're in love but getting abused continuously. Many of us are too in love to leave that person.

Please share your thoughts and ideas about the pen-pal program:

- (Patrick Lee Mullins) I think y'all should post listing well known gay hang outs and encourage readers to write them places and post their letters on a bulletin board. Let those who are locked up to know about upcoming events and how to get into contact with other gay members of society.
- (Kelly Jones) I recently signed up, but I haven't heard back yet. Perhaps you could coordinate with other gay prisoner support groups around the country or perhaps you could contact various MCC Churches or other gay groups around the country for more volunteers? AIDS groups? There are some lonely people out there.
- (William McKenzie) Well I've been waiting a long time for a pen-pal. It kinda sucks everyt night at mail call waiting for something that never shows. I do believe pen pals help so much in the prison system. I said in my bio that I am not looking for money at all. I have a great family who writes every so often by nobody from my community to share with.

Please share your thoughts about the art program:

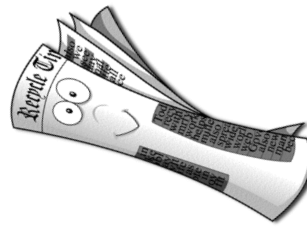
- (Ron Lorigo) The fact that inmates can share and display their respective work is great! There are so many talented individuals behind the walls, and up until recently, the material hadn't a form to be viewed. More sites need to be dedicated to inmate works of art and crafts. Here in California we have a hobby program and there's so many wonderful pieces of art but no place to showcase because this institution makes it rather difficult to get the art mailed out. The art program you offer is a great piece to begin with.
- (William Krainsky) GREAT
- (Tom Maddock) Most of us are in prison because we are very intelligent and talented but had no outlet and made the wrong choices to release our boredom. An art program is excellent it creates a desire to "vent" in art and produces and outlet for our vision to be seen.

Please share your thoughts and ideas about other important ways B&P could offer support:

- I believe that another way for Band P to offer support to GBTL prisoners if for there to become volunteer foot soldiers to go to queer clubs and distribute a sort of booklet that contains queer prisoners so that other queer individuals in the free world will become aware that there are queer prisoners who are lonely and in need of friendship and romance.
- (Cameron Willett) Start up sub stations in every state. As freedom fighters, we have to build up our masses. Ask all of those in lockdown to spread B&P to other LGBTs. Join with other outsiders like "Tranzmission" Like I said, I'm out in 30 months. I'll raise a team right here in Idaho and for the surrounding states.
- (Mr. K. Whitley) More addresses and resources to help the prisoner population.

Please share your thoughts and ideas about how Black and Pink can be led by GLBTQ prisoners:

- (Tulio Cruz) As a prisoner I have first hand of things that happened to other queers in prison, reporting these issues and working to make a change. Every chance I have I speak to the queer community here; some of these queers are educated and can contribute to Black and Pink. How can I help?
- I believe leadership derives from advocating. We must be supported and cared for in order to care. There are those of us like myself who have been in a leadership position at some point in our lives. But as transgenders, leadership inside is hard to find because so many of us don't have anything or anyone.
- (Cameron Willett) Appoint Lieutenants to write half page articles about the system they are currently in. Information gathering of the corrupt, wrong, lies, making monthly reports. Gather ideas on how to build resources. Let it grow!



Great News to Share!

My dear brothers and sisters,

I previously wrote to you offering words of encouragement which was printed in the August newsletter. Well I have great news to share with all of you. I mentioned in my letter to you that I was waiting on a Parole response. Well I was granted Parole! I am waiting on a release date now.

I want to remind you all to *Believe, believe in the promise of tomorrow.*

Keep the faith; don't give in to the negativity that the system creates.

Remember, you make the place, the place doesn't make you.

I've been there with you. I've walked that mile in your shoes so I know what I am talking about. I've shared your laughter and tasted the tears that you have shed, for they were also mine. Be strong in spirit for the spirit is something that no one or no thing can kill, it is yours and it is forever. I love you all, this is why I have written to you all offering you these words of love; for it is love that has motivated me to share these thoughts with you. The road that is before me doesn't get any easier just because I have been granted parole; in fact it just might be a little harder out there. The point is that after having endured all that I have, I have learned how to make Lemonade when life throws lemons at me. I've learned how to do so much with so little for so long, that I can do so much with anything I get out there. We are rich with life's lessons if we just recognize them as they come our way. So in closing, I wish you all love and peace in your thoughts and in your hearts, today and everyday of your lives.

Love your sister, Toni

CONGRATULATIONS!

Several submissions were sent to the San Francisco Women Against Rape's Artists Against Rape event. Artwork from Shaylanna and Jay Martin was accepted! Paula W. and Lilly's personal assault stories were also accepted. And....(drum roll, please)....Paula W. was released from jail!! Please write us if you are out!

My Life in Prison

Hello Ladies and gentlemen- I sincerely wish I had some words of encouragement, but unfortunately at the moment I don't, being in this depressing environment. I read the newsletters each month from Black and Pink, and it really hurts to hear how bad people treat others just because they have the power. I was in protective custody for a while 'till this year. I was the type of person to go and talk to others I seen in the corner by themselves looking lonely, and help other inmates if I could. I unfortunately never been locked up before with a shorter sentence to let me know I don't wanna come here again. That being the case it is hard for me as I'm sure it unfortunately is for many who are in this situation. Then the fact that you are different surely doesn't help. I try to always be nice and respectful as well as obey the rules, but I see those who break the rules get treated better. Fighting my case, having a public defender who doesn't wanna help me with my case, and family who don't seem too concerned about this being my first time in prison and for this amount of time I got as well as have done. I was at a breaking point. Found myself dealing with one more thing that was too much and made a rash decision, which was leaving P.C. [protective custody] and trying to go back- that was crazy. I found myself dealing with an inmate who figured me to be easy prey. I told the counselor I wanted P.C., had to give a reason for wanting it, they said I gave it went to segregation about 2 cells from the guy. Listening to him day and night with remarks about me

Sqqqquuuiffish !



being gay. Interesting thing is the internal affairs officers who were asking him and I questions told him a lot about me putting me in jeopardy even more. Through all that I'm still not in P.C. And have reached the point of not caring as well as welcome death. I'm usually contemplating suicide anyway. An individual once told me we come to prison as punishment, not for punishment, I wish the people who work in the prisons would agree. Another thing I'm unable to understand is how quickly the state's attorney in Illinois can throw out certain things as being a waste of tax-payer's dollars. However, many of us have worked before prison and taxes were taken out of our checks. Why aren't we able to at least get the best p.d.'s there are or something for our tax dollars that were taken. Hopefully someone gets me on this, but if I'm sounding crazy just let me know. Well I thank you all so much for your time, feel free to write, I enjoy getting mail when it comes.

-Maurice

B&P says: We wish we could bend those bars, reach in, give you a hug, and pull you out of there!

Alone?

a question flares as I stare into the mirror...

...am I alone?

For every day I see myself and I wonder...

...am I alone?

For the tears that run down from my eyes...

...am I alone?

The pain that I feel and see on my face...

...am I alone?

The hope and wanting growing ever more,

The love in my heart screaming for release,

During these words that I write even now.

...am I alone?

The fears and doubts that run through my head,

The sadness and emotions, The need to feel, touch and kiss

...am I alone?

Just think, all of you who are now reading this. I know you have cried millions of tears, just as I have. I know you have prayed to what gods there may be, "why do I feel this way, why are you allowing this to happen to me?," just as I have. I know you have asked "why do I have to see horrible things? Why must I have only these eyes? Why pain? Why emptiness?"...just as I have.

How come I'm denied love, companionship, the warmth of a partner?...am I alone?

Even now as I write, I'm crying, I'm hurting.

Am I alone? NO! all of us are together. For every tear is only great, because I have all of you, you have me, you have everyone.

We...all of us have each other.

This is my happiness, my love. I hold you now. I love you. I'm here, everywhere for you.

My heart, your heart, my love, your love.

Our eyes, our lips, our touch.

We are not alone. We are together.

From afar to close by, to being right next to each other, miles between us do not matter.

Feel your heart beat, 1...2...3... I'm here, we are here. Look into your eyes, I'm here, we are here. Feel your skin, I'm here, we are here.

Brothers and sisters

Friends and lovers

I'm here, you're here

we are here.

NO! ... we are not alone.



"My gay pride is love"



I think a lot about the gay condition, issues and meanings. And, I produce a lot of commentary, message and positive ideas from it. John Lennon was a visionary idealist who expressed beautiful humanity that would serve all people well, except that evil really does oppose good. The conformists oppress non-conformists, majorities oppress minorities, and religion & politics oppress queers. Obviously, we have to think like survivors, but we have to teach tolerance of all kinds generationally. Our hope is secured in the birth of queers. We're not trained, indoctrinated, taught, proselytized, or steered to be queer; quite the contrary. Our nature exists notwithstanding. To be sure, we have purpose; our compassion, our faith, and our talents. My gay pride is love. I love being gay, and I could not possibly love anyone any other way. And I am for anyone that is true to themselves for the same reason, not to be brain-washed by peer social influence. And I am against prejudice which destroys human continuity.

May God continue your efforts and bless you abundantly.

Love & Peace,
John L.

My Precious Family



I would like to say "thank you",
for not giving up on me.
In time of heartache and trouble,
you've kept me as a part of the family.

You've given me the strength and determination
to be a better and prosperous man
You've also shown me that,
I'm not by myself in this precious land.

The love and support that you provide is
so valuable, precious, and appreciated.
Every time that I think about the family
I can't help but smile because I'm elated.
Yes, by the will and grace of God,
I feel much more than blessed.
Because, in this time of need,
you are passing the test.

So, with this poem. I hope, wish and pray,
that your today will be better than
yesterday, and that your tomorrow will
be better than today...

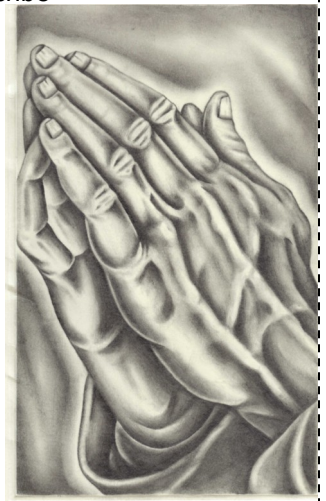
I miss love and miss my precious family.
-James "Katie Beth"

Gramps

A whisper in the darkness
An epitaph supreme
A life's full compilation
And fulfillment of a dream
There are no farewells for you this day
I've simply gone before
To set a place for all of you
For whom I adore
There are no words that can describe
The joy that fills my heart
To think about my thankful life
Of which you are a part
For what now seems a parting
Is really but a phase
That finds us again together
In God's plan in future days.

(To "Gramps" – Loney –
we miss you)

--Shelton Bollinger



-Jay Martin

Let Me Off Your Slave Plantation

Here in Missouri prisons, there's not a voice challenging the oppression on inmates being deprived of education, rehabilitation, and the emancipation from the carnal system false beliefs. We are treated as re-entry slaves placed back on the plantations of the Southern soil of "Master Charlie's" cotton picking fields without being fed to survive the hard labor.

Master Charlie gave up his slaves, just to build a stronger and more durable plantation. And convince the Federal Government that building prisons is the right method to solving an economical crisis and prevent crime. So Master Charlie and all the other slave owners came together and pushed a bill to produce prisons- slave plantations- another righteous act of the Ole faithful regime of the United States Government. Now, Master Charlie and his racist friends of plantation owners got more slaves than they did when all the plantations were separated in the South.

Missouri got more prisons than any state across the country. And continues to build smaller branches around with Halfway houses, Drug Programs, and placing parole and probation stipulations to force prisoners returning to society to pay debts, or return back to the plantation.

Prison is Slavery! It strips a person of a normal way of thinking, because there's nothing in prison that teaches a person how to live in family structures, or be prepared for the high standards of technology that awaits prisoners outside its doors. The Federal Government has prepared a plan 100 years down the line- by leasing property back in the rural area, Master Charlie has prison plantations for the purpose of maintaining people back into slavery. And placing stereo-typical thought patterns into the minds of the general public- that this method is right, and convincing society that it's a step towards taking a bite out of crime. When all along, their main focus is shaking hands with the ole-time slave masters, and making up agony apologies for winning the "Revolutionary War" against slavery.

The Federal Government has basically put the racist slave masters back into position to treat prisoners with total dishonor, disrespect, and use barbaric mental torture of placing men and women into cells. And depriving prisoners of a proper education to meet the requirements of the latest technology and the changing trends of society.

It's also totally sad how transpeople are being treated. Especially when they have carried so many politicians and "Presidents" into position because of their votes. Yes, I support the transgeneder movement, because the Government is mis-using them, and locking them behind doors of prisons, and placing their beliefs and way of life last, and forcing them into slavery.

-Mr. James Spann



-Kory Hunziker

At the end of the day

Close your eyes and see me as a member of your church, or perhaps a cheerleader and you're my coach, or pretend I'm just somebody you know, for once see me for my soul. For all my potential put my past to the side. Do not blame me for what I choose not to hide. Give me applause for my pride. At the end of the day it's just nice to know I'm ok with me even if you choose not to be.

-Leslie Camps

Get Me Through

throughout the day I think of you,
 throughout the day you get me through.
 and when I get through I'll come home to you,
 because through and through I love you.
 p.s. I miss you too.

By Thomas Young

Just Another Day

Will you be my one true friend.
 stay with me through thick and thin,
 to hold my hand until my end?
 Will you think of me from dusk till dawn
 though my short but hard lived life is passing on?
 Perhaps you'll miss me when I'm gone.
 My life now just hangs here by a thread.
 I honestly wish I had more time instead.
 But, some things are better left unsaid.
 As the end of my life time draws nigh,
 and it's a matter of time for me to go,
 I've come to grips with the how but not quite yet the why.
 It doesn't mean I'd choose this fate,
 certainly I'd rather wait, it's something even I'd procrastinate.
 Yet dying is easy...
 It's easy living that's hard. Everyone gets a one way card if it doesn't help to be on guard.
 So... smile for me, don't be sad,
 it isn't really all that bad, so many joyful times I've had.
 I've lived my life full of zest so many things for with which I was blessed.
 So now it's time for tired me to rest.
 Embracing my eternity to my chest.
 So when I part for nowhere land to be everywhere throw a party for battered me, rich and grand.
 Dance, sing... laugh... be merry, drink.
 Dying isn't all that scarier than the days before getting married.
 Don't really know what else to say,
 There's really not much use.
 Because when I'm gone and on my way
 The day after will be...
 "Just Another Day"

By James Dixon

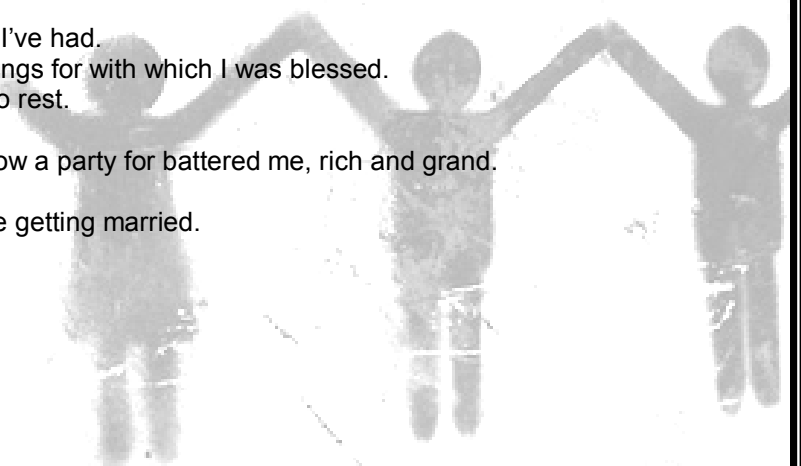
My Resurrection

Cries inside my 'mente' , surrounded by crazy "gente"
 In solitary,... "I see a mirror"...
 Alone, single celled, like a caged animal
 A feared "vicious beast"...
 Far away from home, society, "deemed" a danger
 To the streets...
 A lie well "fabricated" for they own, possess
 "False information"...
 I, again lose a fight, but the battlefield "remains"
 I feel insane...
 Cries inside my 'mente' feeling the pain as the despair
 Does not refrain...
 A "gay warrior" with a cause, broken down and crippled
 In vain...
 For I am alone, no shield, no spear, "a sad shelter"
 A pit...
 "Censored" by the system as their eyes watch my words
 Flicker and twitch...
 Cries inside my 'mente' "streaming down my body", a
 "Tortured soul" waiting on a miracle...
 A miracle to spark the flame, "initiating" my
 Freedom, from "wrongful judgment"...

For these tears, wait for "my resurrection"

By Mikee, CA prison

WE'RE GAY!!



Riots against Serbia's Gay Pride

Excerpted from BBC News, Sunday 10/10/10

Rioters threw petrol bombs and stones at armed police, who responded with tear gas and rubber bullets. The office of the ruling Democratic Party was briefly set on fire, and at least one shot was fired. Calm was eventually restored but more than 100 people, mostly police, were injured, with another 100 arrested.

Sunday's march was the first Gay Pride parade in Serbia since a 2001 event was broken up in violent clashes provoked by far-right extremists. Before the march, the head of the EU mission in Serbia, Vincent Degert, addressed around 1,000 gay activists and their supporters who gathered at a park in downtown Belgrade surrounded by riot police and armoured vehicles.

"We are here to celebrate the values of tolerance, freedom of expression and assembly," Mr Degert told the crowd. While the Gay Pride parade was moving through the city, several hundred protesters began chanting at those taking part as they tried to get close to the march.

"The hunt has begun," the AFP news agency reported them as saying. "Death to homosexuals." Reports told of gangs of skinheads roaming the streets, throwing petrol bombs and setting off firecrackers as police battled to hold them back. Thousands of police had sealed off central Belgrade to protect the event. While the march took place in a heavily-protected area in and around Manjez park, violence flared at several points further afield in central Belgrade.

The protection of minorities is crucial to Serbia's EU aspirations. Chaos on the streets will anger a government determined to move on from a troubled past. The Terazije boulevard was littered with rocks and debris by the time the rioting was quelled. Several cars were overturned and had been set on fire. Democratic Party spokesperson Jelana Trivan said the violence had nothing to do with moral values. "These are hooligan gangs which must be punished severely," Ms Trivan said. The mayor of Belgrade, Dragan Djilas, said the rioters had used Gay Pride as an excuse for a brawl.

Where Life Is

I'm still there
 Prison isn't my home
 I'm still Alive
 Just quarantined as the living dead.
 I'm still there
 Spirit refusing to cross over
 I'm still Alive
 This isn't life's end for me
 I'm still there
 My life left with you.
 I'm still alive
 Through tales of your life is how I live.
 I'm still there
 My impact, my blood, my tears, my seals!
 I'm still Alive,
 Thanks to Words in a Card, Letter, or Newsletter
 I'm still there
 In heart is the closest existence
 I'm still Alive
 My heart beats for you
 I'm still there
 'Cause in my heart Woman is where I'll forever keep you
 I'm still Alive,
 'Cause I can see reunion in our divide
 When I get there I'll be new and refined!

LGBTQ- We Rock, I love Our Community, Gay Pride 4Life Multicultural!!

-CHRISDILLA

B & P Art



-Freddie Goessler

LGBT Folks Respond to Queer Youth Suicides

Adapted from an article by Dan Gorton on jointheimpactma.com



Several hundred people turned out on a rainy Tuesday night—October 5th—blanketing the sidewalks in front of the Massachusetts State House in a memorial for the multiple recent gay teen suicides that have shaken the nation's LGBT community to a degree not seen since the 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard. A total of ten lives (see list below) have been cut short because of homophobia and anti-gay bullying, a longtime scourge that has exploded into public view over the past month. Join the Impact MA organized the vigil to pay tribute to the victims, denounce the homophobia that made life unbearable for them, and provide a venue where members of the Massachusetts LGBT community could console each other over the tragedies.

In September, 2010, 9 gay teens killed themselves over a span of 22 days. Here is the list of names of recent victims whose suicides were related to homophobia and anti-gay and other bullying:

Justin Aaberg (15) July 9, Minnesota; Billy Lucas (15) September 9, Indiana; Cody J. Barker (17) September 13, Wisconsin; Seth Walsh (13) September 19, California; Tyler Clementi (18) September 22, New Jersey; Asher Brown (13) September 23, Texas; Harrison Chase Brown (15) September 25, Colorado; Raymond Chase (19) September 29, Rhode Island; Felix Sacco (17) September 29, Massachusetts; Caleb Nolt (14) September 30, Indiana

The rally began with music—Emcee David Mailloux, Co-Chair of the Join the Impact MA, led the crowd in a sing-a-long of Christina Aguilera's affirmational anthem *Beautiful*. Speaker after speaker called for community solidarity in the face of the homophobia that drives LGBT youth to their deaths. The Rev. Jack Lewis of the Unitarian-Universalist Society of Wellesley declared that no LGBT person need feel alone—we've come together in unity in response to the hatred against us and we need to watch each other's backs. Gunner Scott of the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition decried the lack of legal protection for transgender youth in Massachusetts, and introduced two trans youth who told personal stories of being bullied and beaten for their gender identity. Several speakers demanded action on federal anti-bullying legislation to augment the state protections enacted in Massachusetts earlier this year. Sue Hyde of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and Mass Equality noted that the Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth made recommendations 16 years ago to create safer schools for LGBT youth in Massachusetts, and yet Carl Walker-Hoover killed himself in 2009 after being mercilessly bullied. She demanded budgetary support for the Massachusetts LGBT Youth Commission to help it prioritize implementation of the state's new anti-bullying law and ensure that LGBT youth are protected. Chris Mason, a co-founder of JTIMA, urged attendees to follow the MBTA's advice—if you see something, say something—and reach out to our brothers and sisters in trouble. JTIMA activist Amirah Goldberg described anti-LGBT bullying and suicide as inevitable outcomes of governmental policies like Don't Ask Don't Tell that treat LGBT people as second class citizens. She urged the crowd to get involved with JTIMA in a new initiative to increase resources and support for homeless queer youth.

Speakers Adaora Asala of Queer Women of Color and Jim Reef of JTIMA both talked about having attempted suicide as teens. Adaora spoke of the shame she still felt, while Jim credited the Boston Alliance of LGBT Youth (BAGLY) for saving his life. Daunasia Yancey of BAGLY stressed that there is much to be done to improve the lives of vulnerable youth, and each of us has a responsibility to make it happen. Keegan O'Brien, a student at UMass/Boston told the crowd that we can have an impact by protesting, marching, sitting-in, and chaining ourselves to the White House fence. An open microphone speak-out followed, in which individuals were invited to share personal stories of surviving homophobia and bullying.

BLACK & PINK ART: ALL CALL

Calling all artists!

You continue to amaze and inspire me with your talent, creativity and passion. Here is another opportunity to share your talents with the "outside" world! In December, many faith traditions celebrate holidays. In recognition of that, Black & Pink Art is taking submissions for new greeting card designs! The top 10 chosen by an online poll will be re-printed and sold in a series!

Below are some tips , guidelines, and requests:

- Please create cards for Christmas, Hannukah, Kwanzaa, New Years, Winter and more!
 - Christmas trees, Santa, Star of David, Dreidel, Menorah, 7 symbols of Kwanzaa, etc...
- Be funny! Be sincere! Be cute! Be sassy! Be sexy!
- Please consider creating GLBT themed cards, such as ones for sweeties to give to each other
 - When is the last time you saw a greeting card with a same-gender pair or trans people?!
- Please make your greeting cards the size of a folded sheet of paper like this one, 5.5" x 8.5"
- If you can draw well, but have trouble with text, make a note and we can add text for you
- Please send your greeting card submissions to "Black & Pink Art- Greeting Card" by Nov. 5th
 - In case that your cards are not selected for reprinting, tell us the asking price per card

Thanks in advance for contributing! ~Reed Miller, Black & Pink Art

SEND NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS TO: **BLACK AND PINK- NEWSLETTER**

SEND PEN-PAL REQUESTS TO: **BLACK AND PINK- PEN PAL**

SEND ART RELATED LETTERS TO: **BLACK AND PINK ART- REED MILLER**

SEND IDEAS FOR THE GROUP TO: **BLACK & PINK- DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP**

**THANK
YOU SO
MUCH!**

C/O COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON

565 BOYLSTON ST

BOSTON, MA 02116

CAN YOU WRITE TO OTHER PRISONERS?

Introducing the trial P2P (Prisoner to Prisoner) List

We recognize that many of you would like to write one or more pen-pals, and that some of you have been waiting for a while to make that connection. We know that many people can get in trouble for writing with other prisoners, and we sure don't want to get you in trouble by accident. We suggest checking with the mailroom, prison policy handbook, prison officials, or wherever makes sense for you, before you sign up for this separate prisoner-to-prisoner list, which involves writing to and receiving mail from other people in prison.

Please tear off this slip and mail to:

Black & Pink-P2P List, Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St, Boston MA 02116

Name _____ Number _____

Address _____

Ad about yourself (write neatly plz!) _____

